

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

Location: **Pinellas County Clerk's Conference Room**

Date: **September 20, 2007**

Time: **2:30 p.m.**

Attendees: Commissioner Karen Seel, Brian Smith, Becky Nielsen, Kimberly Hinder, Cynthia Tarapani, Wally Clark, Terry Fortner, Sam Casella, Joan Deming, Dorothy Larson (Oldsmar Historical Society), David Walker, Marcel Mohseni and Susan Kinney-Lowell, and New South Associates Patrick Sullivan and Greg Smith.

I. Call to Order – 2:35 p.m.

Commissioner Seel called the meeting to order. Around the room with introductions followed.

II. Minutes – June 11, 2007

Moved by Terry Fortner, seconded by Wally Clark, and passed that minutes be approved as corrected:

(Pg 2, B. Cyndi has done a preliminary outline for the *final report* not the *tool box*)

III. Review Consultant Progress on the Historic Resources Inventory

- Brian quickly reviewed the process to date and the consultant updated the entire committee. New South Associate consultants Patrick Sullivan and Greg Smith presented the following:
 - Consultant Scope is attached and made of part of these minutes.
 - Currently up to Task Four – Field Reconnaissance – beginning tomorrow (September 21st)
 - Conducted a Kick Off Meeting in July – need some committee help with ‘nudging’ some of the municipalities who have not yet responded – will provide that list to the committee to contact to request responses
 - Approximately 10,000 sites in Pinellas County, currently have categorized approximately 5,000
 - Trying to assign one theme and two sub-themes to each structure; historic resources can searched via themes (sub-themes). Committee was receptive to narrow scope of historic importance.
 - Items to be added to the Thematic Categorizations
 - Coastal Living – Committee suggested adding *Piers* to Beach Development sub-theme
 - Tourism – add Piers
 - Transportation - add Piers, add Early Roads and Trails
 - Agriculture – add Horticulture, add Citrus Packaging
 - Consultant suggested adding Commerce/Industry – delete Citrus Packaging, change Heavy Industry to Industry, add Military (Defense) Industry (also need to add to the HP Ordinance)
 - ◆ Community Life – add Water and Springs
 - ◆ Reminder to consultant to include and consider Pre-History/Archeology theme
 - ◆ Consider Historic Islands and ‘Made Lands’; such as Island Estates
 - ◆ Consider Historic Landscapes
 - ◆ Consultant also suggested adding Ethnic Heritage theme (also need to add to HP Ordinance)
 - ◆ Residential Coastal Living?

- Assessment in process and will begin the condition assessment survey in upcoming week ... determine if the site still remains or has been destroyed – approximately 400 sites in question.
- Archeological sites – looking to see if the locations fall under commercial or industrial categorizations and then see through the GIS if it is under a housing development, parking lot, etc.
- Even if site or structure is lost it will still be categorized – it will note that the structure has been destroyed but the record still remains and may qualify as an archeological site over 50 years old.
- Why no number associated with the NRHP Districts? (Error on part of consultant – have the number just failed to plug it into this report)
- Qualified districts and potential districts – part of your search? Yes
- Classify districts? Yes, where ever possible.
- Consultant asked about Eagle Lake? Historic landscapes? Historic Site (Landscape) is Pinellas site #11549. Believe it might be Taylor Park. Committee felt that Historic Site (Landscape) would be a legitimate category.
- Consultant is looking to committee members either professionally, personally or as a group to recommend areas that you know are being threatened or important themes you want to see highlighted
- There may be cities that did not complete the survey back in the 1990s as part of their comprehensive plan, so more may be missing than we realize. Need to document who ‘has it on the shelf’ and who has done nothing, and who has nothing. This may impact our next step.
- Also consider ‘no data versus development pressure’
- Mobile home parks need to be looked at very soon – especially as quickly as they are disappearing
- Regarding development pressures, it was suggested by Terry Fortner to look into the vicinity of Alt 19 between Palm Harbor and Tarpon Springs where there is an existing farm (now up for sale) where the last beekeeper lives across from the Noel’s Chimp Farm and a taxidermy shop (now gone) ... not enough of a community where someone is watching out for what is happening – there is a lot of development going on there – it was once a sand hill pine type habitat.
- It was suggested to check into these:
 - ◆ Skycrest Neighborhood used to be a huge Gladiola Farm
 - ◆ Pinellas Park has a ‘greenhouse community’ that grows flowers and plants for the floral industry
 - ◆ Cinder block home industry
- If a community wants to update their district, etc. is there a way to use the same formatting, categories, etc. and be able to just ‘dump’ new information into this data base? This database will be specific to Pinellas County. Perhaps a brief description of the database, examples of entries, etc. Documentation will be critical to be able to continue this process.
- Consultant passed out business cards so committee could contact them directly.
- Next meeting with the consultant – committee discussed and decided to meet again at the end of **Task 6 – Update historic and archeological resource sensitivity maps** and prior to **Task 7 – Prepare report and provide preservation recommendations for inclusion.**

IV. Review of Community Workshops on the Ordinance

- Commissioner Seel reported on work shops in Dunedin and in Pinellas Park.
 - Some issues that came from these meetings:

- ◆ Who is going to designate what is historic – the property owner, the government, who? Decide how we want to address that in the Ordinance.
- ◆ Look at model communities who have re-used their historic buildings
- ◆ Discussion on school buildings in Largo; educating elected officials; asking Channel 18 to do an overview of the Ordinance and give the tape to the cities
- ◆ Engineering help – do we want to discuss this
- ◆ CVB to do some promotion once the inventory is complete and include that in their promotion of the area
- ◆ Protecting the properties that might be in danger
- ◆ Should complete personal visits to the cities in the next couple of months

V. Fine Tune the Draft County Historic Preservation Ordinance

- “Who is going to designate what is historic” Issue - do we want to define it in the Ordinance or shall we be silent on this issue? Issue is more – who will *initiate*? The city or county does the survey work. Let the professionals do their work. Keep the politics out of the Ordinance. (See page 4, Section 3, Paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Ordinance). Much discussion followed. Leave the Ordinance as is.
- Discussion ensued to consider including someone from the building industry (i.e. structural engineer) and a real estate professional on the Advisory Board (page 6, Section 5 second paragraph). Committee believed this Ordinance has been wordsmithed completely – there is room for these people in the current wording.
- If we accept the presentation of the consultant, we need to change the local criteria to add a category for Commerce/Industry and one for Ethnic Heritage.

VI. Other Aspects of the Program

- The Tool Kit – Bob Jeffrey is working on it along with Jan, David and Kim – Karen Seel to check the status.

VII. Other Business

- Sam Casella stated that he attended the Belleair Town Council Meeting last night and Legg-Mason presented their plans for the Biltmore Hotel.
 - Would like to suggest that we invite Legg-Mason to attend and make the same presentation as last night at a future meeting of this committee.
 - Further discussion about the presentation and their plans.
 - Roughly five-year process (including the permitting, licensing, etc.)
 - Amazing that it has come from nearly demolished to a complete renovation in a very short period of time.
 - Town is working with the County and St. Pete on historic preservation
- Ordinance IS posted on the website and has been for at least a month and a half
- When is the Ordinance going to the Commission? Targeting January 2008. Hopefully we will have written confirmation of support from each of the cities prior to going to the Board.
- Next meeting – Perhaps Bob will have the Tool Box ready and we could meet in November – otherwise, January 2008 unless the Biltmore presentation can be scheduled before.

VII. Adjournment – 4:00 p.m.